

# ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR RELEASE:**

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**GREENWALD/CRYAN/SCALERA/CHIAPPONE BILL REQUIRING TRAINING  
FOR STATE-LEVEL CAMPAIGN TREASURERS SIGNED INTO LAW**

*Measure Part of Comprehensive Ethics Reform Plan*

(PRINCETON) -- Legislation providing training by the state Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) for state-level campaign treasurers was signed into law today by Governor James E. McGreevey.

The new law (S-10/A-10) requires that anyone designated as a campaign treasurer of a candidate committee or joint candidates committee for the Senate, the General Assembly or the Office of the Governor to undergo ELEC training within 90 days of designation. Treasurers of state political party committees and legislative leadership committees also will be required to follow the provisions set by the law, which is sponsored by Assemblymen Louis D. Greenwald, Joseph Cryan, Frederick Scalera and Anthony Chiappone.

“As anyone with political experience can attest, campaign finance and election laws often are convoluted and confusing,” said Greenwald (D-Camden). “However, being a campaign treasurer should not require a Ph.D., an MPA or a CPA. Mandating training will help eliminate any confusion and provide a sound knowledge base for treasurers.”

ELEC currently provides training opportunities for campaign treasurers, but participation is voluntary.

“Coupled with the state’s intricate campaign-finance laws, the large volume of contributions donated to state-level campaigns can cause major headaches for treasurers,” said Cryan (D-Union). “Mandating training for state offices will help ease the burden placed on treasurers and ensure greater accuracy in compliance with state law.”

Under the new law, campaign treasurers at the local level will be encouraged -- but not required -- to go through ELEC training.

(MORE)

“Requiring state-level campaign treasurers to be trained will help prevent unintentional rule violations and the embarrassing penalties that can result,” said Scalera (D-Essex). “Keeping the books for a political campaign should not put otherwise honest and well-intentioned individuals at risk of being cited for campaign finance violations due to complicated reporting requirements.”

New Jersey will be the first state in the nation to mandate this type of training, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The measure is part of a sweeping initiative, entitled “Restoring the Public’s Trust,” that includes reforms in public contracting, campaign financing, legislative disclosure and ethical conduct by legislators and other top state officials. The package represents the most comprehensive overhaul of state ethics and campaign laws in more than 30 years.

“As we initiate ethics reform and changes in our campaign-finance laws, it is only fitting that we bolster training requirements for campaign treasurers,” said Chiappone (D-Hudson).

The law will go into effect in 180 days.